

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. A device for carrying items comprising:  
a shoulder strap portion having at least one panel of fabric to be disposed about and supported by a shoulder of a user;  
a holding portion coupled to the shoulder strap portion, such that the shoulder strap portion is capable of independently supporting the weight of the holding portion with at least one item disposed therein, the holding portion having at least one panel of fabric to form a holding area suitable for holding items approximately the size of a child or a small pet; and  
a stabilizing cord to be anchored to the shoulder strap portion, the stabilizing cord being adjustable to provide additional support for the item to be held.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the shoulder strap portion comprises a first panel of fabric and a second panel of fabric sewn together.
3. The device of Claim 1, further comprising:  
means for adjusting the stabilizing cord, wherein the stabilizing cord is adjustable by varying the tension on at least a portion of the stabilizing cord.
4. The device of Claim 1, further comprising:  
means for adjusting the shoulder strap portion on the shoulder of the user in order to raise or lower the holding portion.
5. The device of Claim 4, wherein the means for adjusting includes at least one of a knot, a buckle, a clasp, a clip, a cinch, a hook-and-loop fastener, and a hook-and-eye fastener.
6. The device of Claim 4, wherein the means for adjusting is disposed on an inner side of the shoulder strap portion.
7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the fabric panels are configured to form a bottom portion proximal to a body of the user and a side portion distal to the body of the user, the side portion being higher than the bottom portion.
8. The device of Claim 1, wherein the stabilizing cord comprises at least one of rope, an elastic material, rubberized compression cord, nylon webbing, and ribbon.

9. The device of Claim 1, further comprising:  
a loop disposed on the holding portion to provide a guide for the stabilizing cord.
10. The device of Claim 1, wherein the holding portion defines a guide channel for the stabilizing cord distal to a body of the user.
11. A device for carrying a child comprising:  
a shoulder strap portion having at least one panel of fabric to be disposed about and supported by a shoulder of a user and means for adjusting the shoulder strap portion on the shoulder of the user;  
a holding portion coupled to the shoulder strap portion, such that the shoulder strap portion is capable of independently supporting the weight of the holding portion with at least one item disposed therein, the holding portion having at least one panel of fabric to form a holding area suitable for holding the child; and  
a stabilizing cord, a portion of which is to be anchored to one of the shoulder strap portion and the holding portion, the stabilizing cord being adjustable to provide additional support for the child being held.
12. The device of Claim 11, further comprising:  
means for adjusting the stabilizing cord, wherein the stabilizing cord is adjustable by varying the tension on at least a portion of the stabilizing cord.
13. The device of Claim 11, further comprising:  
a loop disposed on the holding portion to provide a guide for the stabilizing cord.
14. The device of Claim 11, wherein the holding portion defines a guide channel for the stabilizing cord distal to a body of a user, the holding portion to include an aperture through which a bight of the stabilizing cord can extend to be adjusted by the user based on the size of the child and the position in which the user desires to hold the child.
15. The device of Claim 14, further comprising:  
a grommet disposed within the aperture to strengthen the aperture.
16. The device of Claim 11, wherein the stabilizing cord comprises two separate cords each having a first end and a second end, the first end of each cord anchored to the shoulder strap portion, and wherein the holding portion defines a guide channel for the stabilizing cord distal to a body of a user, and wherein the holding portion further defines an aperture through which the second end of each cord which is not

anchored to the shoulder strap portion can extend to be adjusted by the user based on the size of the child and the position in which the user desires to hold the child.

17. The device of Claim 11, wherein the stabilizing cord has a first end, a second end, and an intermediate section, at least a portion of the intermediate section of the stabilizing cord anchored to the holding portion.

18. The device of Claim 11, wherein the stabilizing cord comprises two separate cords each having a first end and a second end, the first end of each cord anchored to a central region of the holding portion, and wherein the holding portion defines a guide channel for the stabilizing cord distal to a body of a user, the holding portion including two apertures through which the second end of each cord which is not anchored to the holding portion can extend to be adjusted by the user based on the size of the child and the position in which the user desires to hold the child.

19. A device for carrying a child comprising:

a shoulder strap portion having at least one panel of fabric to be disposed about and supported by a shoulder of a user and means for adjusting the shoulder strap portion on the shoulder of the user;

a holding portion coupled to the shoulder strap portion, such that the shoulder strap portion is capable of independently supporting the weight of the holding portion with at least one child disposed therein, the holding portion having at least one panel of fabric to form a holding area capable of holding the child in at least one of a prone position, a reclined position, and an upright sitting position; and

a stabilizing cord, a portion of which is to be anchored to one of the shoulder strap portion and the holding portion, the stabilizing cord being adjustable to provide additional support for the child being held and to adjust the position in which the user desires to hold the child.